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To: R7 Senior Staff [R7_Senior_Staff@epa.gov]
Subject: R7 OPA Daily Clippings - 1/21/21

EARNED MEDIA

KRMS Radio - EPA Extends Public Comment Period On Adding LOTO To Missouri Impaired Waterways – 1/21/21 - The EPA is extending what started off as a 60-day public comment period as it considers adding Lake of the Ozarks to its list of impaired waterways in Missouri. High nutrient levels in the lake are why the discussion's happening. <http://bit.ly/3o96XxM>

R7 IN THE NEWS

KHGI Ch. 13 Kearney NE - Legislator's new bill could be the solution to Meads toxic waste problem – 1/20/21 - After years of failing inspections and being denied permits for the toxic waste they are producing an Ethanol Plant outside of Mead might be on its last legs as recently introduced Legislation looks to make their unique operation illegal here in the state. <http://bit.ly/3nYPOa4>

REGIONAL

Lincoln (NE) Journal Star - Keystone XL opponents joyous as Biden revokes approval – 1/20/21 - Opponents of the Keystone XL pipeline expressed joy over the action by President Joe Biden on Wednesday to revoke approval of the controversial oil pipeline set to flow through Nebraska. <http://bit.ly/39SW7qz>

Omaha World-Herald - Opponents of Keystone XL pipeline celebrate as Biden revokes project's permit – 1/20/21 - Opponents of the Keystone XL pipeline reacted in jubilation Wednesday after incoming President Joe Biden put a halt on the controversial oil pipeline. <http://bit.ly/2M78rLI>

Iowa Ag Connection - Hickory Grove Water Quality Improvement Plan Online - 1/20/21 - Iowans interested in the results of a DNR study to improve water quality in Hickory Grove Lake in Story County can view a presentation on the Iowa DNR's YouTube channel. <http://bit.ly/3iyrOte>

Rural Radio Network (NE) - Agriculture groups react after Joe Biden sworn in as 46th president – 1/20/21 - Various agriculture groups and elected officials offered their reactions following the inauguration of President Joe Biden. <http://bit.ly/399g6SZ>

Monett (MO) Times - Pierce City processing plant pronouncement postponed – 1/20/21 - Questions still remain unanswered for a proposed processing plant in Pierce City. Bert Bond, water superintendent, spoke to council about his concerns on the impact such a project could have on the wastewater treatment plant, primarily the aeration ditch. <http://bit.ly/2LTF5R5>

FUELS

BREAKING: Brownfield Ag News –Court Grants Emergency Motion Staying EPA SREs – 1/21/21

- A federal appeals court has granted the emergency motion filed by the Renewable Fuels Association in response to the EPA's last-minute granting of three small refinery waivers. The RFA says the US Court of Appeals for the D.C. District has ordered EPA's actions on Tuesday to be "administratively stayed" until further court order. <http://bit.ly/39RpXM3>

KTTN Regional Radio Trenton MO - American Coalition for Ethanol says EPA's proposed ethanol rule is a tough pill to swallow – 1/20/21 - A proposed biofuels rule from the EPA is getting criticism from ethanol supporters. The part of the rule ethanol supporters like would address E-15 labeling and infrastructure requirements and not act on 66 petitions for Small Refinery Exemptions.

<http://bit.ly/391lxB>

DTN Progressive Farmer (blog) - Emergency Petition Filed to Stop EPA From Granting Small-Refinery Exemptions - 1/20/21 - The Renewable Fuels Association filed an emergency petition with the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, asking the court to stop the EPA from granting three small-refinery exemptions to the Renewable Fuel Standard issued on Tuesday evening. "EPA's decision will inflict substantial, immediate and irreversible harm," on ethanol producers, the emergency motion said. <http://bit.ly/2Y3TA7z>

YouTube – Renewable Energy Group CEO on how biofuels help reduce carbon output – 1/20/21

- Renewable Energy Group CEO CJ Warner explained how biomass-based diesel is being used to address climate change. <https://bit.ly/39VDanh>

AgWeb - USDA Cut Ethanol Demand; USDA Chief Economist Explains Why – 1/19/21 - Ethanol demand continues to be a question in the new year. As COVID-19 cases continue to rise in the country, some states are still seeing restrictions, which is impacting the number of people on the road. At the same time, ethanol stocks rose to an 8-month high earlier this month. <https://bit.ly/3bYVYV7>

MarketScreener - After Ernst's Push, EPA Takes Action to Expand Access to E15 – 1/15/21

- U.S. Senator Joni Ernst (R-Iowa), a relentless advocate for Iowa's biofuel industry and member of the Senate Environment and Public Works (EPW) Committee, issued the following statement regarding the EPA's new proposed rule to remove certain barriers to expanded sales of E15, including E15 fuel dispenser labeling and compatibility with underground storage tanks. <http://bit.ly/3qJU2E3>

Radio Iowa - In final hours, Trump's EPA grants more RFS waivers – 1/20/21 - On the last night of the Trump Administration, the EPA granted three waivers to oil refiners, exempting them from the obligation to blend corn-based ethanol into fuel. <http://bit.ly/362uVo9>

Energy.AgWired.com - What President Biden Can Do Now to Cut Carbon Emissions – 1/20/21

- Now that President Biden has been sworn in, the [Renewable Fuels Association](http://www.renewablefuels.org) has a way the new administration can immediately cut carbon emissions by 12 million metric tons. <https://bit.ly/3iwNUfN>

Energy.AgWired.com - Biodiesel Board Disappointed in Last Minute Waivers – 1/20/21 - During the National Biodiesel Conference session on policy this week, panelists agreed that the worst thing the outgoing EPA could do to hurt the biodiesel industry was to grant more small refinery exemptions. A few hours later, that is exactly what EPA administrator Andrew Wheeler did on his way out the door. <https://bit.ly/363la82>

Biofuels Digest - RFA files emergency motion to stop EPA's "dark of night" SRE approvals – 1/20/21 -

In Washington, the Renewable Fuels Association filed a petition for review and an emergency motion to stay the effectiveness of three small refinery exemptions granted Tuesday evening by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency with less than 24 hours remaining in the Trump administration. <http://bit.ly/2KygtN8>

Brownfield Ag News – Growing Biodiesel Industry Benefits Soy Growers – 1/20/21 - Increased biodiesel production and demand is benefiting US soybean growers. Greg Anderson, a board member for National Biodiesel Board, says the growth is increasing demand for soybean oil, the primary feedstock for biodiesel. <http://bit.ly/3sJebMz>

Brownfield Ag News – Renewable Fuels Association Seeks to Stop EPA's Latest Refinery Waivers – 1/20/21 - The President of the Renewable Fuels Association says he's not surprised outgoing EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler granted three new ethanol blending waivers granted late Tuesday. Geoff Cooper says, "We're just frustrated but not terribly surprised by the last-minute actions of this administration." <http://bit.ly/2LLQgeS>

Brownfield Ag News - Corn leader says latest ethanol blending waivers cap off "four years of ridiculousness" – 1/20/21 - The President of the National Corn Growers Association says EPA's granting of three ethanol blending waivers in the final hours of the Trump administration caps off "four years of ridiculousness." John Linder says, "It seems like business per usual at EPA when it comes to waivers and undermining the RFS." <http://bit.ly/39QrUzo>

Brownfield Ag News - Ethanol group critical of last-minute waivers, unsure if Biden administration will be better – 1/20/20 - The President of the American Coalition for Ethanol Brian Jennings tells Brownfield the last three Small Refinery Exemptions might not seem like much, but the damage to renewable fuels over the last four years has been severe. <http://bit.ly/2Y2qNQQ>

Farm Progress - EPA approves three RFS waivers in final hours | Administrator Wheeler gives final approval for demand equivalent of 260 million ethanol gallons. – 1/20/21 - As earlier feared, the EPA granted three small refinery exemptions, or waivers, for 2019 Renewable Fuel Standard blending and one SRE for 2018. The ethanol industry has already vowed to challenge the Trump administration's action in court. <http://bit.ly/2KAWaPj>

Inside EPA - Biofuels Groups Vow To Fight Wheeler's 11th-Hour RFS Waiver Approvals – 1/20/21 - Biofuels groups are pursuing litigation to challenge former Trump EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler's last-minute approval of three renewable fuel standard (RFS) compliance waivers, an

action that one industry group calls a “sucker punch” for biofuels producers even though the approvals are much more limited than previously expected. <http://bit.ly/3o70jrl>

CORONAVIRUS

Associated Press - Nebraska COVID hospitalizations drop to lowest since Oct. 26 – 1/20/21 - The number of people hospitalized with the coronavirus in Nebraska has dropped to its lowest point in nearly three months, according to state statistics. <http://bit.ly/3iyDUCx>

Kansas City Business Journal - Missouri Senate debates limiting local pandemic restrictions – 1/21/21 - Missouri senators debated Wednesday whether to curtail local governments’ ability to impose restrictions on local businesses that are meant to control the Covid-19 pandemic. <http://bit.ly/2KGgPBC>

St. Louis Post-Dispatch - Missouri Republicans trying to wrest pandemic power from local health officials – 1/20/21 - Local health officials could be stripped of their power to control a deadly pandemic under a package of proposed changes under consideration by Missouri Republicans. <http://bit.ly/2Y1CRSs>

AP - Biden puts forth virus strategy, requires mask use to travel – 1/21/21 - As the U.S. enters “what may well be the toughest and deadliest period of the virus,” President Joe Biden is putting forth a national COVID-19 strategy to ramp up vaccinations and testing, reopen schools and businesses and increase the use of masks — including a requirement that they be worn for travel. <http://bit.ly/3sNzso6>

NATIONAL

NPR - Pandemic Drastically Cut Emissions From Cars. The Lone Exception? SUVs – 1/20/21 - According to a recent report from International Energy Agency, carbon emissions from SUVs increased by 0.5% in 2020, even though the world's energy-related emissions overall fell by 7%. <http://n.pr/2XYCaZN>

The Hill - Interior secretary rescinds wilderness protection order before leaving office – 1/20/21 - As one of his last official acts in the Trump administration, Interior Secretary David Bernhardt rescinded an Obama-era order that directs the department to protect wilderness areas. <http://bit.ly/2MfN6jq>

Waste DIVE - Environmental efforts key for Biden, but industry expects limited recycling policy movement in 2021 – 1/20/20 - While existing initiatives are likely to make headway, and Democratic majorities in Congress could affect certain legislation, trade groups don't anticipate major changes due to a crowded agenda. <http://bit.ly/3bYegpJ>

Utility DIVE - DC Circuit rejects Trump EPA ACE rule, opening door for more stringent regulations under Biden – 1/20/21 - The D.C. Circuit's ruling will allow the incoming Biden

administration greater ability to implement stricter emissions rules on power plants.

<http://bit.ly/39U7w9A>

NPR - Toxic Pesticide Faces New Scrutiny From Biden Administration – 1/20/21 - President Biden's initial wave of planned executive actions includes an order to reexamine one controversial, but widely used, pesticide called chlorpyrifos. The Trump administration had stepped in to keep the chemical on the market after Obama-era officials tried to ban it. <http://n.pr/3c0E8RW>

Associated Press - Fauci vows full US engagement with WHO – 1/21/21 - President Joe Biden's top medical adviser on COVID-19, Dr. Anthony Fauci, says the United States will cease reducing U.S. staff counts at the World Health Organization and pay its financial obligations to it as it vows to stay fully engaged with the U.N. health agency to help fight the coronavirus pandemic.

<http://bit.ly/3qlu18u>

Inside EPA - Chamber Backs 'Market-Based' Climate Steps But Omits Policy Details – 1/20/21 - In a statement released to coincide with the start of the Biden administration, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce is endorsing "market-based" approaches to a climate change policy approved by Congress, while indirectly acknowledging divisions within the business community by failing to offer specific policy options. <http://bit.ly/3iAug2d>